

HONORING EDWARD PAELTZ

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Edward Paeltz of Godfrey, Illinois. Mr. Paeltz is a veteran of World War II and was recently awarded the "General William C. Westmoreland Award" from the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution for his distinguished service to veterans.

Since he was discharged from the Army 55 years ago, Edward Paeltz has spent countless hours helping veterans in need of care. With the help of his wife, Nancy, he frequently visits veterans in hospitals, nursing homes, and veterans homes throughout Illinois. During the Christmas season, he brings them cookies and other gifts to put a smile on their faces. In addition, Mr. Paeltz helps transport veterans from the Veterans Hospital in Marion, Illinois, to a lodge and retreat center in Carbondale so they can participate in recreational activities.

Edward Paeltz is a former commander of Alton American Legion Post 126. He recently fulfilled his dream by designing and organizing the construction of a Veterans' Memorial in Alton, Illinois, to honor the veterans of all branches of the armed forces. Mr. Paeltz is an inspiration to us all.

A TRIBUTE TO HERB OBERMAN

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 10, 2001

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mr. Herb Oberman, who will step down from his job as a Los Angeles County social worker on July 12, 2001. A dedicated public servant, Herb has served the people of Los Angeles County for the past 35 years.

Herb has proven that he truly cares about protecting children's rights. He received his Master's Degree of Social Work from the University of California Los Angeles in 1966 and spent seven years dedicating himself as a Children's Service Worker in the Foster Care Program. In 1973, he participated in the formation of Community Service Centers.

Herb has served on the board of directors of several social service organizations. He is the past president of the Santa Clarita Valley Girls and Boys Club and served on the board of directors of the Los Angeles Regional Foodbank between 1973–1993.

Herb Oberman's contributions have received recognition for his programs, which include the Los Angeles Efficiency and Productivity Program administration of the Los Angeles Citizenship Assistance Campaign; the Ford Foundation's "Innovations in State and Local Government" award in 1986 for his administration of the county's Federal Food Commodities Distribution Program; and the Parents Fair Share Project, a national demonstration project which helps noncustodial parents find employment and pay.

As Herb moves on to new pursuits, I would like to thank him for his remarkable work. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring his

hard work and extraordinary contributions and wish him luck on his retirement.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 27, 2001

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2311) making appropriations for energy and water development for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Mr. Chairman, I would like to explain my position on the Kucinich amendment that would reduce funding for the National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and move some of the NIF money into the non-proliferation programs of the national Nuclear Security Administration. There is clearly a need to avoid the damage that would occur to our nonproliferation programs if funding is not increased. The President made a mistake in his budget when he made deep cuts in the non-proliferation programs. The cuts make little sense in a world where many nations have the capability and desire to develop weapons of mass destruction including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. We must therefore increase our capability to monitor developments around the globe in this area.

The President's budget already cuts the NIF programs. I support that cut given the troubling history of this program. I am very concerned about the recent GAO report findings, which concluded that not only will NIF cost at least \$1 billion more than planned and take six years longer than expected to begin operations, but also that the program poses a serious number of unresolved technical problems. Moreover, because of the critical nature of the GAO findings, the agency reportedly is doing a follow-up report, which it intends to submit to Congress.

Mr. Speaker, furthermore, in an article in the Albuquerque Tribune, the Director of Sandia National Laboratory, Mr. Paul Robinson, criticized NIF suggesting there be a reduction in its design and cost to protect other nuclear weapons program components. Moreover, a report by Dr. Robert Civiak, a physicist and former OMB Program Examiner for the Department of Energy, spells out the need to cancel NIF before any further spending occurs.

For these reasons and others, Congress needs to closely examine the NIF program and determine whether it warrants future funding. That is why I am voting NO on the Kucinich amendment.

PROJECT VOTE SMART**HON. HENRY J. HYDE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I was recently informed of the efforts of an organization called

Project Vote Smart—a group of dedicated individuals who work tirelessly in a non-partisan fashion to develop dependable facts about various national and state issues affecting all Americans while encouraging eligible citizens to vote. I am pleased to share some background information about the organization, which I hope my colleagues will find interesting and beneficial.

PROJECT VOTE SMART

A few years ago a handful of people, a mixture of young energetic students and retired leaders from fields in politics, academia and various other civic fields, held a meeting about the increasing use of media and technology by campaigns to manipulate information, and the citizen's diminishing access to dependable, abundant information on issues and political candidates.

That meeting gave birth to Project Vote Smart (PVS), a small 501(c)(3) now engulfed in its own success. In the beginning the idea seemed simple: use young people from throughout the country to collect millions of documented facts about issues, candidates and other pertinent information about politics; index the information and then categorize it so that citizens could easily access the information through local libraries, toll-free hot lines, the internet and published reports.

Specifically, the Project is in a national library of factual information on over 40,000 candidates and incumbents in public office—all presidential, congressional, gubernatorial, state legislative seats, county, and local candidates and incumbents. They are researched in five basic areas: backgrounds, voting records, campaign finances, performance evaluations by over 100 conservative to liberal special interests, and campaign issue positions on the issues they will likely have to deal with if elected.

Project Vote Smart does not lobby, support or oppose any candidate or cause, and does not accept financial support from any organization that does—it is supported entirely by philanthropic foundations and the individual contributions of over 45,000 members. Election-year programs are sponsored by over 4,000 public libraries and hundreds of national and local news organizations. National leaders are not allowed to join the founding board without a political opposite—founding board members are national leaders as diverse as Goldwater and McGovern, Carter and Ford, Hatfield and Ferraro, Gingrich and Dukakis. PVS is staffed by volunteers, interns and a small staff paid only minimal salaries. They are conservatives and liberals of various parties who have volunteered for up to two years in order to help citizens get the facts about candidates instead of just the rhetoric.

TRIBUTE TO 2001 LEGRAND SMITH SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, it is a sincere pleasure to recognize the finalists of the 2001 LeGrand Smith Scholarship Program. This special honor is an appropriate tribute to the academic accomplishment, demonstration of leadership and responsibility, and commitment to social involvement displayed by these remarkable young adults. We all have reason to celebrate their success, for it